

26 July 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SHRYOCK

SUBJECT: Project

1. plan of campaign is so comprehensive, orderly, and logical that it is difficult to fault it. I have misgivings, nevertheless, if for no other reason than the implication that one of the main objects of the exercise is to figure out a way of spending the enormous sums of money which OMB has apparently offered the DCI for the purpose.

2. More specifically, I don't see any bridge between the study phase (paragraph C.3.) and the test bed phase (paragraph B.3.). The study phase will catalogue and explain existing or developing mechanisms. This information will presumably be used as a basis for designing new mechanisms and new supporting hardware. I can see this taking a year or more. I wonder whether it is necessary to wait for this before starting experimentation. Wouldn't it make more sense to start the test immediately on a trial and error basis using existing commercially available hardware? New hardware and new mechanisms could be tried out as they emerged from the studies, R&D, etc.

3. I also have misgivings about the ivory tower quality of the proposed test bed. It may be necessary to go that route, but my instinct tells me that the more pragmatic way to attack the problem is to select one or two real live analysts operating in the real world and make guinea pigs out of them. It would be a tough job for them, and they would have to be totally dedicated to the experiment to test it effectively. Since money is apparently no object, and this alternative would in any event cost little, why not use both methods?

4. My final concern with the test bed proposal is that it is apparently projected as a joint (or simultaneous) effort by CIA, DIA, and INR. I think that in this case, ecumenism is likely to sink the ship. Running such an experiment is going to be difficult enough without having to coordinate every step of the way among three agencies. I would urge that the test, at least initially, be run only in one component--preferably DDI.

5. A key question not addressed in paper is--which end of the analytic spectrum are you going to focus on? OCI or OPR?

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6. I agree that, so far as the IC Staff is concerned, this is our responsibility rather than I don't think we should overlook the fact that Proctor's attitude on this whole project will be of key importance.

Acting DC/PRD

Attachment

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